



A 9/11 anniversary tradition is handed down to a new generation

By JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A poignant phrase echoes when 9/11 victims' relatives gather each year to remember the loved ones they lost in the terror attacks. "I never got to meet you." It is the sound of generational change at ground zero, where relatives read out victims' names on every anniversary of the attacks. Nearly 3,000 people were killed when al-Qaida hijackers crashed four jetliners into the twin towers, the Pentagon and a field in southwest Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 2001. Some names are read out by children or young adults who were born after the strikes. Last year's observance featured 28 such young people among more than 140 readers. Young people are expected again at this year's ceremony Wednesday. Some are the children of victims whose partners were pregnant.



A photo of New York firefighter Christopher Michael Mozzillo, who died in the 9/11 attacks, with his 9/11 Medal of Valor is shown, Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024, in Freehold, N.J..

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A 9/11 anniversary tradition is handed down to a new generation

Continued from Front

More of the young readers are victims' nieces, nephews or grandchildren. They have inherited stories, photos, and a sense of solemn responsibility.

Being a "9/11 family" reverberates through generations, and commemorating and understanding the Sept. 11 attacks one day will be up to a world with no first-hand memory of them. "It's like you're passing the torch on," says Allan Aldycki, 13.

He read the names of his grandfather and several other people the last two years, and plans to do so on Wednesday. Aldycki keeps mementoes in his room from his grandfather Allan Tarasiewicz, a firefighter.

The teen told the audience last year that he's heard so much about his grandfather that it feels like he knew him, "but still, I wish I had a chance to really know you," he added.

Allan volunteered to be a reader because it makes him feel closer to his grandfather, and he hopes to have children who'll participate. "It's an honor to be able to teach them because you can let them know their heritage and what to never forget," he said by phone from central New York. He said he already finds himself teach-



Pamela Yarosz and her daughter Capri are shown with a photo of New York firefighter Christopher Michael Mozzillo Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024, in Freehold, N.J.. Mozzillo, who died in the 9/11 attacks, was Pamela's brother.

ing peers who know little or nothing about 9/11.

When it comes time for the ceremony, he looks up in information about the lives of each person whose name he's assigned to read.

"He reflects on everything and understands the importance of what it means to somebody," his mother, Melissa Tarasiewicz, said. Reciting the names of the dead is a tradition that extends beyond ground zero. War memorials honor fallen military members by speaking their names aloud. Some Jewish organizations host readings of Holocaust victims' names on the in-

ternational day of remembrance, Yom Hashoah.

The names of the 168 people killed in the 1995 bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City are read annually at the memorial there.

On Sept. 11 anniversaries, the Pentagon's ceremony includes military members or officials reading the names of the 184 people killed there. The Flight 93 National Memorial has victims' relatives and friends read the list of the 40 passengers and crew members whose lives ended at the rural site near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The hourslong observance at the 9/11 Memorial in New York is almost exclusively dedicated to the names of the 2,977 victims at all three sites, plus the six people killed in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. All are read by relatives who volunteer and are chosen by lottery.

Each is given a subset of names to render aloud. Readers also generally speak briefly about their own lost kin, frequently in touching detail.

"I think often about how, if you were still here, you would be one of my best friends, looking at colleges

with me, getting me out of trouble with Mom and Dad, hanging out at the Jersey Shore," Capri Yarosz said last year of her slain uncle, New York firefighter Christopher Michael Mozzillo.

Now 17, she grew up with a homemade baby book about him and a family that still mentions him in everyday conversation.

"Chris would have loved that" is a phrase often heard around the house.

She has read twice at the trade center ceremony.

"It means a lot to me that I can kind of keep alive my uncle's name and just keep reading everybody else's name, so that more of the upcoming generations will know," she said by phone from her family's home in central New Jersey. "I feel good that I can pass down the importance of what happened."

Her two younger sisters also have read names, and one is preparing to do so again Wednesday. Their mother, Pamela Yarosz, has never been able to steel herself to sign up.

"I don't have that strength. It's too hard for me," says Pamela Yarosz, who is Mozzillo's sister. "They're braver."

Callaway Treble, 18, says his generation of 9/11 families needs to carry forward the victims' memory. He lost his aunt Gabriela Silvina Waisman, a software company office manager. □

Associated Press



The seal on the J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building is seen June 9, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans were duped out of more than \$5.6 bil-

lion last year through fraud schemes involving cryptocurrency, the FBI said in a

Americans lost \$5.6 billion last year in cryptocurrency fraud scams, the FBI says

report released Monday that shows a 45% jump in losses from 2022.

The FBI received nearly 70,000 complaints in 2023 by victims of financial fraud involving bitcoin, ether and other cryptocurrencies, according to the FBI. The most rampant scheme was investment fraud, which accounted for \$3.96 billion of the losses.

"The decentralized nature of cryptocurrency, the speed of irreversible transactions, and the ability to transfer value around the world make cryptocur-

rency an attractive vehicle for criminals, while creating challenges to recover stolen funds," wrote Michael Nordwall, assistant director of the FBI's criminal investigative division.

Scammers will often make contact through dating apps or social media to build trust over several weeks or months before suggesting cryptocurrency investing, the FBI said.

Once the relationship is built, they convince the targets to use fake websites or apps to invest their money, sometimes even allowing

the victims to withdraw small amounts of money early on to make it seem legitimate.

In some cases, those victims are then targeted by bogus businesses claiming they will help the victim recover the cryptocurrency they lost, according to the FBI.

FBI officials say Americans of all ages can be a target of such scams, and should be extremely cautious when presented with investment opportunities from people they've never met in real life. □

Black Caucus issues new guidelines for DEI policies and urges firms to help reduce racial wealth gap

By MATT BROWN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Corporate policies meant to advance diversity and inclusion in the workplace are legal and should be expanded to promote broad economic prosperity and reduce racial wealth inequities, according to a new report by the Congressional Black Caucus. The report released Monday offers guidelines to corporations on the best practices to adopt to advance diversity, equity and inclusion policies in the workplace and calls on companies to recommit to advance racial justice in the workplace. The document also includes a roadmap for advancing wealth creation in Black communities and closing the racial wealth gap.

"In the wake of the death of George Floyd, corporations pledged \$50 billion to racial equity and strengthening DEI policies," said Rep. Steven Horsford, D-Nev., chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, in an interview. "DEI is now under attack, but the response from corporate America has been overwhelming."

The findings follow a December open letter the caucus issued that called on cor-



Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, center, speaks with Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., and members of the Congressional Black Caucus as they visit the site of George Floyd's death in south Minneapolis on June 4, 2020.

porations to "reaffirm their commitments to DEI" and work with the CBC to fulfill pledges on racial and economic inequality.

The study is the result of the ensuing monthlong dialogue between the caucus and nearly half of Fortune 500 companies, as well as academics and business analysts, to develop guidelines that promote DEI and Black economic mobility in

an increasingly fraught political and legal environment. It cited corporations facing a backlash to such policies from conservative activists and lawmakers.

Horsford condemned "far right actors who are attempting to bully corporate America" to back away from DEI policies. He added that it was "erroneous" for corporations to rescind DEI policies because of the

Supreme Court's June decision overturning affirmative action programs in college admissions, which did not directly address corporate DEI policies.

"There is nothing under the law that is illegal or unconstitutional about corporations advancing DEI policies. I commend the corporations that answered our call. We are now giving the roadmap for what good looks

like," Horsford said, citing the study's title: "What Good Looks Like: A Corporate Accountability Report on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion." Since the Supreme Court's ruling, more than a dozen Republican attorneys general have sent letters to Fortune 500 corporations threatening legal action over DEI policies. Earlier this year, GOP lawmakers in multiple states pursued restrictions on diversity and inclusion efforts in the workplace, and conservative legal groups have directed lawsuits at organizations focused on advancing under-represented groups. Some companies have backed away from DEI policies they once promoted in the wake of Floyd's death.

Such policies can be as broad or narrow as an organization decides and can focus on any demographic. In the immediate wake of the Supreme Court ruling, the Democratic chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, a federal agency focused on civil rights policies in the workplace, stated that the decision "does not address employer efforts to foster diverse and inclusive workforces or to engage the talents of all qualified workers." □

Associated Press

New York site chosen for factory to build high-speed trains for Las Vegas-California line

HORSEHEADS, N.Y. (AP)

— Trains for what is being called the nation's first true high-speed rail line between Las Vegas and the Los Angeles area will be built at a new factory in upstate New York, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced Monday. Siemens Mobility will construct the American Pioneer 220 trains at a 300,000-square-foot (28,000-square-meter) facility in Horseheads, which is near the Pennsylvania line, said Schumer, a New York Democrat. About 300 jobs will be created, he said.

"Upstate New York is unmatched in rail car manu-

facturing capabilities, with a deep, proud history pioneering the rail industry and a community that is excited to get to work building America's future," Schumer said in a statement.

Construction on the \$12 billion passenger bullet train service is underway and is expected to be finished in time for the Summer Olympics in Los Angeles in 2028. Brightline West will build more than 218 miles (351 kilometers) of new track along the Interstate 15 corridor between Las Vegas and Rancho Cucamonga, California, where it will link to a commuter rail connection to downtown Los Angeles.

Officials say the aim is for the trains to exceed speeds of 186 mph (300 kph) comparable to Japan's Shink-

ansen bullet trains. That would cut the travel time from four hours by car to just over two hours.



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks with reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, July 9, 2024.

Associated Press

The trains would run faster than those on other high-speed lines in the U.S., including Amtrak's Acela between Boston and Washington, D.C., which can top 150 mph (241 kph).

The New York factory is expected to begin building the new trains in 2026. Siemens Mobility has agreed that workers at the facility will be represented by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

"Bringing high-speed rail to America is no longer a dream, but a reality," Marc Buncher, chief executive officer of Siemens Mobility North America, said in a statement. □

U.S. seeks new pedestrian safety rules aimed at increasingly massive SUVs and pickup trucks

By TOM KRISHER

AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The U.S. government's road safety agency wants the auto industry to design new vehicles including increasingly large SUVs and pickup trucks so they reduce pedestrian deaths and injuries.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Monday that for the first time it's proposing a new rule setting testing and performance requirements to minimize the risk of pedestrian head injuries.

The rule would cover all passenger vehicles weighing 10,000 pounds or less, but it's aimed largely at big SUVs and pickups, which have grown in size and hood height over the years, causing blind spots for drivers.

NHTSA said pedestrian deaths increased 57% from 2013 to 2022, from 4,779 to 7,522. The agency says the rule would save 67 lives per year.

Data show that nearly half of all pedestrian deaths when hit by the front of a vehicle are most common for SUVs and trucks.



The 2025 model Hyundai Ioniq 5 electric SUV is seen Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024, after being unveiled at an auto dealership in Savannah, Ga.

Associated Press

The proposed rule, required by Congress in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, would set test procedures to simulate head-to-hood impact as well as requirements to reduce the risk of head injuries. Human-like head dummies that simulate children and adults would be used in testing, NHTSA said in a prepared statement.

"We have a crisis of road-

way deaths, and it's even worse among vulnerable road users like pedestrians," NHTSA Deputy Administrator Sophie Shulman said in the statement. "This proposed rule will ensure that vehicles will be designed to protect those inside and outside from serious injury or death."

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation, a large industry trade group, pointed

out that companies have already developed crash avoidance technology to make roads safer for pedestrians and others. The industry has given input to NHTSA on pedestrian safety and will review the proposal, the alliance said in a statement.

The infrastructure law required NHTSA to make U.S. regulations match a global pedestrian safety rule, with

a regulation that would focus on vehicles made uniquely for the U.S. market. Through August, SUVs and trucks of all sizes accounted for almost 79% of new vehicles sales in the U.S., according to Motorintelligence.com.

Last year, an Insurance Institute for Highway Safety study found that vehicles with higher, more vertical front ends raise risks for pedestrians.

The research arm of the insurance industry found that pickups, SUVs and vans with a hood height greater than 40 inches are about 45% more likely to cause deaths in pedestrian crashes than cars and other vehicles with a hood height of 30 inches or less and a sloping profile.

The authors also questioned whether wider pillars holding up roofs of the larger vehicles make it harder for drivers to spot people walking near the corners of vehicles.

Consumer Reports found in 2021 that elevated vehicle hoods also obstructed driver views of pedestrians crossing before them. □

A former NYC school food chief is sentenced to 2 years in a tainted chicken bribery case

By KAREN MATTHEWS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The former head of food services



Eric Goldstein, Chief Executive, Office of School Support Services, New York City Department of Education, speaks in a discussion with other school leaders and experts on school nutrition at an event in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House complex, May 27, 2014, in Washington, D.C.

Associated Press

for New York City public schools was sentenced to two years in prison on Monday for a bribery scandal that resulted in children being served chicken tenders contaminated with metal and bone.

Eric Goldstein, the former school food chief, was sentenced in Brooklyn federal court along with three men who ran a vendor that had contracted with the city to provide school food Blaine Iler, Michael Turley and Brian Twomey. Iler was sentenced to one year and a \$10,000 fine, Turley to 15 months and Twomey to 15 months and a \$10,000 fine. All four men were found guilty of bribery, conspiracy and other charges after a monthlong trial in 2023.

"Eric Goldstein corruptly abused his high-ranking position of trust as a public official and pursued lucrative bribes at the expense of school children, many of whom rely on healthy meals provided by the New York City Department of Education," U.S.

Attorney Breon Peace said in a statement.

Peace said Goldstein "prioritized lining his pockets with payoffs from his co-defendants" to ensure that the defendants' food stayed in the schools even after plastic, bones and metal were found in the chicken.

Messages seeking comment were sent to attorneys for Goldstein, Iler, Turley and Twomey.

Goldstein oversaw school food as head of New York City's Office of School Support Services from 2008 to 2018. Iler, Twomey and Turley had a company, SOMMA Food Group, that contracted with the city to provide school food.

Around the same time, the three men and Goldstein formed another company to import grass-fed beef. Prosecutors argued that the venture was a way to pay Goldstein off.

Prosecutors said the largest bribe payment was made in the fall of 2016 after the city school system had stopped serving SOMMA's chicken tenders because an employee had choked on a bone in a supposedly boneless chicken tender. □

The EU buys too much defense equipment abroad, especially from the U.S., a major report says

By **LORNE COOK**
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union countries are buying too much of their defense equipment abroad, almost two thirds of it in the United States, and failing to invest enough in joint military projects, a landmark report on EU competitiveness warned on Monday.

The 27 member states are also failing to make best use of Europe's research and development capacities to modernize their armed forces, with just a fraction the level of U.S. investment, said the report by former Italian prime minister and European Central Bank chief Mario Draghi.

The report comes as the EU continue to struggle to find enough weapons and ammunition to help Ukraine survive the full-scale Russian invasion, now in its third year, and to kickstart Europe's defense industry.

"Europe is wasting its common resources. We have large collective spending power, but we dilute it across multiple different national and EU instruments," said Draghi's report, which has been a year in the making and is likely to fuel



U.S.-made Abrams tanks purchased by Poland take part in a military parade in Warsaw, Poland, on Aug. 15, 2023.

an overhaul of the bloc's industrial strategy.

Part of the problem, it said, is failing to invest properly in Europe to create stronger defense firms.

"We are still not joining forces in the defense industry to help our companies to integrate and reach scale," it said. The report pointed out that "we also do not favor competitive European defense companies."

The report notes that, be-

tween mid-2022 and mid-2023, 63% of all EU defense orders were placed with U.S. companies, and a further 15% with other non-EU suppliers. Last week, the Netherlands joined a list of EU members to order big budget U.S.-made F-35 warplanes.

Across the 27 nations in 2022, defense research and development spending amounted to 10.7 billion euros (\$11.8 billion) just 4.5%

of the total compared with \$140 billion in the United States, or around 16% of all defense spending.

ATO allies almost all of whose members are part of the EU have been ramping up defense spending since Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in 2014. Their aim is for each country to spend at least 2% of gross domestic product on their national defense budget. Consecutive U.S. leaders

Associated Press

have been exhorting European allies and Canada to spend more on defense for more than a decade, although former President Donald Trump was the only one to threaten to refuse to defend any country that did not respect the goal. Much of the money goes back to U.S. industry.

NATO forecasts that 23 of its 32 members will meet or exceed the 2% target by the end of the year, up from just three countries in 2014. Western defense spending has been further spurred by Russia's fully fledged invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

On top of this, NATO allies also want to dedicate at least 20% of their national defense expenditure to major new equipment. That includes funds for research and development, which is crucial for modernizing their armed forces.

The report highlighted the shortcomings of countries investing in their national defense industry rather than joint procurement. When Ukraine appealed for artillery, for example, EU countries supplied 10 types of howitzers. Some use different 155 mm shells, causing logistical headaches. □

The U.N. chief calls the death and destruction in Gaza the worst he's seen

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. chief said Monday that the United Nations has offered to monitor any cease-fire in Gaza and demanded an end to the worst death and destruction he has seen in his more than seven-year tenure.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in an interview with The Associated Press that it's "unrealistic" to think the U.N. could play a role in Gaza's future, either by administering the territory or providing a peace-keeping force, because Israel is unlikely to accept a U.N. role.

But he said "the U.N. will be available to support

any cease-fire." The United Nations has had a military monitoring mission in the Middle East, known as UNTSO, since 1948, and he said, "from our side, this was one of the hypotheses that we've put on the table."

"Of course, we'll be ready to do whatever the international community asked for us," Guterres said. "The question is whether the parties would accept it, and in particular whether Israel would accept it."

Israel's military assault on Gaza, triggered by Hamas' attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7, has stretched for 11 months, with recent cease-fire talks failing to reach a breakthrough and violence in the West Bank reaching

new highs. Stressing the urgency of a cease-fire now, Guterres said: "The level of suffering we are witnessing in Gaza is unprecedented in my mandate as secretary-general of the United Nations. I've never seen such a level of death and destruction as we are seeing in Gaza in the last few months." The war has killed over 40,900 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not differentiate between fighters and civilians in its count. The war has caused vast destruction and displaced around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million, often multiple times.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his

government have accused the U.N. of being anti-Israel and have been highly critical of U.N. humanitarian operations in Gaza. Facing protests at home and

increasing urgency from allies, Netanyahu has pushed back against pressure for a cease-fire deal and declared that "no one will preach to me." □



Palestinians inspect the damage at a tent area in the courtyard of Al Aqsa Martyrs hospital, hit by an Israeli bombardment on Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024.

Associated Press

Venezuelan opposition still hopes to unseat Maduro despite their candidate's exile

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado tried to reassure supporters Monday that her coalition still hopes to gain control of the presidency despite the departure into exile of their candidate Edmundo González Urrutia.

Machado's group maintains that it has evidence that González won the July 28 presidential election by a wide margin against Venezuela's authoritarian incumbent president, Nicolás Maduro, despite his claim to have won.

Machado told an online meeting Monday of opposition leaders, reporters and others that her group still hopes to see Maduro leave office in January, even if for voters those hopes seem increasingly tenuous since González's decision to flee into exile to Spain over the weekend.

She said the former diplomat could fulfill the role of opposition candidate "with much greater protection and security" from abroad. She herself has gone into hiding in the weeks since the election, while Maduro's government has arrested more than 2,000 people



Venezuelan opposition presidential candidate Edmundo Gonzalez waves to supporters during a political event at a square in the Hatillo municipality of Caracas, Venezuela, June 19, 2024.

Associated Press

and cracked down on demonstrations throughout the country protesting the election results.

"Nothing has changed," she insisted from an undisclosed location in Venezuela. González, 75, landed Sunday at a military airport near Madrid, accompanied by his wife and Spanish officials. His departure was announced late Saturday by Venezuela's gov-

ernment, which days earlier had ordered his arrest.

González had not been seen publicly since the week after the vote, when he and Machado announced not only that their campaign had obtained vote tallies from over two-thirds of the electronic voting machines used in the election but also that they had published them online to show the world that

Maduro had lost the contest.

Their assertions stunned supporters and critics alike, because the National Electoral Council had declared Maduro the winner hours after polls closed, giving him a third six-year term set to begin on Jan. 10. The panel, stacked with ruling party loyalists, never released detailed vote tallies to support Maduro's claim

to victory.

González had never run for office before the presidential election. The leadership of the Unitary Platform opposition coalition chose him as candidate after the government banned Machado from running for office and did not allow her hand-picked successor to register for the contest.

Machado became his key surrogate, and they campaigned together.

González said in a statement Monday that he is not motivated by "personal ambition." He wrote that he remains committed to "the realization of the popular will," but he did not explain how he intends to continue to work toward that goal.

"My commitment is not based on personal ambition, this decision is a gesture that reaches out to everyone, and I hope that it will be reciprocated as such," González said.

Machado told reporters that González is "Venezuela's president-elect" regardless of his location and will remain so "until the day he is sworn in as president." She did not offer any details of the strategy that could lead to that result. □

U.S. halts plan to remove iconic stray cats from a historic area in Puerto Rico's capital

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— The U.S. government has temporarily halted a plan

to remove iconic stray cats that live in a historic district in Puerto Rico's capital until a lawsuit opposing the project is resolved, a nonprofit

announced Monday.

The ruling was cheered by those fighting a decision by the U.S. National Park Service to remove an estimated 200 cats that meander a seaside fortress that Spain built in colonial times.

"It's a victory for the short term, but long term, these cats are still at risk," said Yonaton Arnoff, an attorney for Maryland-based Alley Cat Allies.

The cats, which have long been a tourist attraction, are both beloved and reviled by those who visit and live in Old San Juan, where the 16th-century fortress known as "El Morro" is located. It's part of the San Juan National Historic Site that the U.S. National Park

Service operates.

The federal agency warned in 2022 that the population of cats had surged and that the felines could transmit illnesses to humans, adding that the smell of urine and feces enveloped the area. In late 2023, the agency announced it would contract an animal welfare organization to remove the cats, and if the organization selected failed to do so within six months, officials would hire a removal agency.

The U.S. National Park Service didn't immediately respond to a message for comment.

The agency held public hearings on the plan that became heated, with critics noting that the organi-

zation selected would decide whether the trapped cats would be adopted, fostered, kept in a shelter or face other options.

Arnoff said in a phone interview that removing the current cats is an impossible task since new cats would take their place.

"They're going to have to keep doing this forever," he said.

The U.S. National Park Service was scheduled to start removing the cats in October, but it agreed to halt those plans until a judge rules on a lawsuit that Alley Cat Allies filed in March. The nonprofit alleges that the plan violates acts including the National Environmental Protection Act. □



A stray cat rests on a statue in Old San Juan, Puerto Rico, Nov. 2, 2022.

Associated Press

Aruba's underwater wonderland

ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.



Tres Trapi

Tres Trapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. Tres Trapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.



Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let

their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.



Baby Beach

Baby beach; a white beach, with a crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Baby beach is an excellent beach for snorkeling, especially if you want to go with small children, because the water remains shallow and there are still many underwater wonders to see. In the ocean there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.



Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. You reach the beach by a bridge through the mangroves and then you will have several entrances to the sea. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, wooden stairs made to enter the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is just like snorkel heaven. □



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The Diversity of Aruba's Restaurant Market: Po-Ke Ono Leads the Asian Culinary Scene!

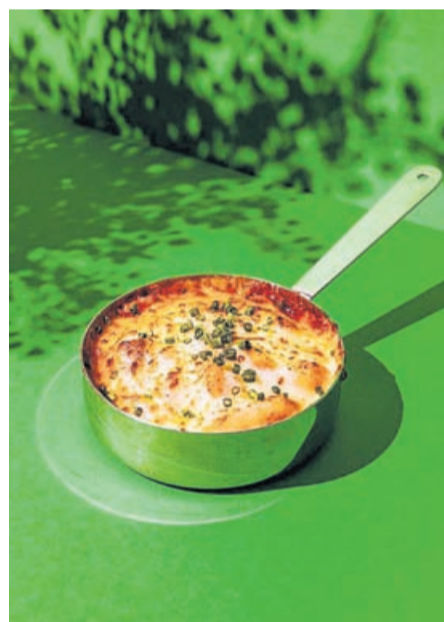


Aruba's culinary landscape is a vibrant reflection of the island's rich cultural diversity and global influences. Among the stand-out establishments, Po-Ke Ono shines as a leader in culinary innovation. Ranked as the number one Asian restaurant in Aruba for over two consecutive years, Po-Ke Ono has captured the hearts of both locals and tourists with its unique fusion of Hawaiian and

Asian flavors.

Unlike traditional Asian restaurants, Po-Ke Ono is the creative vision of Executive Chef Urvin Croes, who draws inspiration from his global travels. The result is a diverse menu that sets Po-Ke Ono apart from any other dining experience, both locally and internationally.

Po-Ke Ono began its journey with humble beginnings shortly before COVID-19, starting with just a steamer and a rice cooker. Now, nearly five years later, the restaurant operates from two fully developed kitchens, a testament to its growing popularity. The secret to its success lies in its commitment to innovation and high-quality service. With a rotating selection of daily specials



and new dishes tailored for the local market on the horizon, Po-Ke Ono continues to impress.

By year's end, Po-Ke Ono will reintroduce its popular Sunday brunch and offer special group menus, making it an ideal spot for family and friends to gather. Whether you visit Market Place in Oranjestad or Azure Residences at Eagle Beach, Po-Ke Ono remains a top destination on Aruba's culinary map, embodying the importance of creativity and diversity in the island's restaurant market. □

Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and

Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the

island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest

Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are

still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □

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Yesterday, Raymond Kamperveen registered the shortest presidency of Parliament in the history of Aruba

Despite yesterday seeing images of members of the military practicing their parade and other preparations for the ceremony of inauguration of a New Parliamentary Year, which was programmed for today, the retirement of the government of Aruba means that no New Parliamentary Year will be inaugurated today.

At the same time, this means that the newly elected president of Parliament, Raymond Kamperveen, lost his position barely a few hours after being elected yesterday. With this, Kamperveen holds the record for the shortest presidency of Parliament in the history of Aruba.

Aruba elects a legislature on the national level. Parliament (Staten) has 21 members, elected for a four-year term



Prime minister Evelyn Wever-Croes, of the MEP-party, speaks to reporters after handing her request for the retirement of her cabinet to the Governor of Aruba.

by Open list Party-list proportional representation. Seats are distributed between parties that have gained at least one full quota (1/21, or approximately 4.76% of the vote) using the Hagenbach-

Bischoff system (a variant of the D'Hondt method).

Aruba has a multi-party system, with two or three strong parties and a third party that is electorally successful. In

Members of the armed forces during a ceremonial parade for the opening ceremony for Parliamentary Year 2023.



Governor of Aruba, His Excellency Mr. Alfonso Boekhoudt gives a speech during the opening ceremony for Parliamentary Year 2023.



Mr. Raymond Kamperveen (far left) in Parliament with vice-prime minister of Aruba, Mr. Ursell Arends and member of Parliament Misha Raymond.

2021, the MEP-party won the general election and formed a coalition government with the Raiz-party, which had a mandate until 2025.

Every year, the members of Parliament vote for a new president for Parliament. This year, the senior coalition partner MEP wanted to extend the presidency of Edgard Vrolijk, while the junior coalition partner requested anyone but Vrolijk. This resulted in a political standoff within the coalition, with both parties announcing late at night on Monday that they were "ready for elections" if they couldn't come to

an agreement on the presidency.

Yesterday morning, after the voting for the new president of Parliament took place, giving the presidency to leader of the Raiz-fraction, Raymond Kamperveen, prime minister Evelyn Wever-Croes and the rest of her MEP ministers in government requested to the Governor of Aruba to retire from their positions. This means that Aruba no longer has a government – replaced by a caretaker government – and new elections are to be held on the 6th of december 2024. □

Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba



ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.

Iguanas

Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba – as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered.

However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!

Turnip-tailed gecko



The turnip-tailed gecko is known locally as the Pega-Pega, meaning sticky-sticky, due to the way it sticks to walls using the suction in its little fingers. They are found inside houses, and are mostly a nocturnal animal.

According to Etnia Nativa, the local Pega Pega is immediately recognizable by its large size, with a body length of up to 12 cm, and its large, swollen tail, approximately the same length or slightly shorter than its body; females are larger and more robust than males. It has short, robust legs with flattened toes and extensive basal webbing. The undersides of its toes are covered in lamellae, which are used as friction pads to cling to smooth vertical surfaces. Some can even walk around completely upside down. Its toes are covered with ridges, which are peppered with millions of microscopic bristle-like structures called setae that attach and detach when the animal wills them to, and they never get gunked up.

They are variable in coloration, from a mottled dark gray to orange-brown, and are capable of changing color depending on their mood and surroundings. Mottled and banded markings aid in camouflage against tree bark. They are harmless and fragile; you can hold one in your hands as long as you

are VERY gentle.

Never put pressure on its tail because it will surely drop as a measure to try to distract the predator, and they are different from other lizards because they're long-lived, talkative, lack eyelids, and their small scales are situated next to each other like cobblestones rather than overlapping as is the case in most other lizards.

Turnip-tailed Geckos are insectivorous and feed on cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders, which makes them the best pest control to have at home! They spend their days concealed in dark tree grooves and cavities, in narrow crevices in the walls, or behind paintings, which provide the perfect shelter for them. Pega pega is a gecko endemic to our island, but in time, some 4–5 intrusive gecko species have been observed, some of which do not cease to amaze us with the racket they make, especially during the hours of the night.

The Pega-pega Phyllodactylus Julieni is also a protected species in Aruba, by law. It is illegal to kill them!

Blue Kododo

These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color. The Aruban whiptail lizard, Cnemidophorus arubensis, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Kodo-



do help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

Striped anole

The striped anole (*Anolis lineatus*) that lives in Aruba is known locally as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymmetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay.

Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.



Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.

Kenepa



Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of

fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind



A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

Comcomber chiquito

This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Comcomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round.

Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pampuna



In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pampuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

CROSSWORD

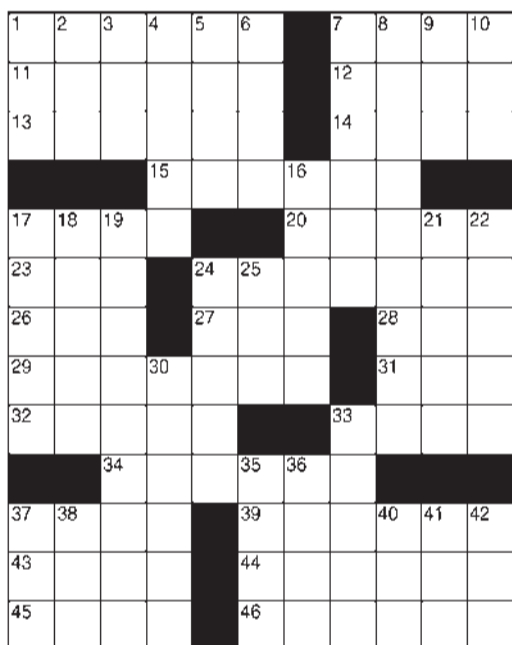
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Words on a candy heart
7 Garden building
11 Freed of wrinkles
12 Andean nation
13 Passionate feeling
14 Quite uncommon
15 More tightly packed
17 Tennis great Arthur
20 Aquarium fish
23 Director Ang
24 Candle material
26 Hoppy brew, for short
27 Grammys category
28 Poem of praise
29 Edible roots
31 Squeak stopper
32 Pop star John
33 Bustles
34 Village residents
37 Weary word
39 Met, as a challenge

DOWN

- 43 Polite fellow
44 Arthurian island
45 Casino figure
46 Words on a candy heart
1 Child
2 Rage
3 Distress signal
4 Disparaging
5 Simple
6 Perfect place
7 Benders
8 Tree's core
9 Screw up
10 Word on a bill
16 Dance units
17 Writer Munro
18 Flower part
19 Nation's center
21 Ham's need
22 Skating jumps
24 Rodeo horse
25 Consume
30 Perches
33 Tea-growing region of India
35 Swift horse
36 Valentine word
37 In the past
38 Went ahead
40 Inventor Whitney
41 Great weight
42 Count start



2-14

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-14

CRYPTOQUOTE

SLD NKJE SLHKX FD KDIDG
XDS DKNWXL NY HR JNID; TKZ
SLD NKJE SLHKX FD KDIDG
XHID DKNWXL NY HR JNID.

— LDKGE BHJJDG

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU MAY NEVER KNOW WHAT RESULTS COME OF YOUR ACTIONS, BUT IF YOU DO NOTHING, THERE WILL BE NO RESULTS. — MAHATMA GANDHI



Yesterday's answer

Cruise ship Schedule: September 03 - 24 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	03	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00 09.00	20.00 22.00	B C	1 1
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	10	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL CELEBRATION CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 08.00 13.00	21.00 22.00 23.00	B C I	1 1 1
TUE	17	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	24	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL MAGIC	08.00 09.00	21.00 22.00	B C	1 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7

A capsule has been propelled through a hyperloop test tube in a step forward for the transit system



A test vehicle levitated by magnetic fields zips through a depressurized tube in a testing ground for a high-speed transit system during a press tour of an European test center for hyperloop transportation technology in Veendam, northern Netherlands, Friday, Sept. 6, 2024.

Associated Press

By **ALEKSANDAR FURTULA**
Associated Press
VEENDAM, Netherlands

(AP) — Hyperloop, a new form of mass transit involving capsules whizzing on magnetic fields through depressurized tubes, has achieved significant lift-off in the northern Netherlands, a company developing the technology said Monday.

A test vehicle was levitated and zipped through a tube at a testing facility for the high-speed transit system once promoted by Elon Musk.

"So today, with the first successful test, we were able to levitate the vehicle, also turn on the guidance system and the propulsion system," Marinus van der

Meijs, the technology and engineering director at hyperloop company Hardt, told The Associated Press late last week before Monday's formal announcement.

The European Hyperloop Center's 420-meter (460-yard) tube is made up of 34 separate sections mostly 2½ meters (more than eight feet) in diameter. A vacuum pump sucks out the air to reduce the internal pressure. That reduces drag and allows capsules to travel at high speeds. Hyperloop developers aim to have capsules speeding through tubes at up to 700 kph (435 mph). Its backers say it's far more efficient than short-haul flights, high-speed rail and freight

trucks, but it will involve significant investment in infrastructure. So far, in the limited space offered by the test center, the speed has been modest.

Once the capsule was in place in the tube, "we launched it with an acceleration similar to that of a metro, up to a top speed of about 30 kph (18 mph), about 100 meters (more than 300 feet) in the pipe," Van der Meijs added. Even so, it's a milestone that required some careful conducting.

"The most difficult things that we are doing now is to test all of these functions together. Levitation, propulsion, guidance, all of those functions we are now capable of executing as an orchestra, making them work together," said Roel van de Pas, commercial director of Hardt Hyperloop. □

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Got Rizz? Co-founder of new dating app on using AI as your matchmaking wingman

By **WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Can artificial intelligence be an effective wingman?

Roman Khaves, co-founder and CEO of Rizz, thinks so. The AI dating assistant app analyzes screenshots of conversations you're having on other platforms from Tinder to iMessage and crafts reply suggestions. Rizz has amassed millions of downloads since launching in 2022, with more and more competition also emerging into the dating scene since.

Khaves recently spoke with The Associated Press about the demand for this kind of platform, how AI is being used to find in-person connections, and what guardrails are needed to bring AI technology into such an intimate part of our lives. The interview has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: How does Rizz work?

A: Rizz is an AI dating assistant. If you're stuck in a conversation or you don't know how to open up on a dating app, you can pull out Rizz and upload a screenshot of a particular profile or conversation that you're having trouble with on that other platform. It will



(Associated Press Illustration/Jenni Sohn)

give you tons of suggested replies and also a strategy on how you could start the conversation or respond to certain things.

The more you use Rizz, the more it understands what type of replies you like. And that trains the model to improve over time.

Q: Why launch this kind of app?

A: Three years ago, I personally found myself stuck in the middle of dating app conversations. Sometimes, I

would take a screenshot to send to some of my friends and say, "Hey, what do I say next?" And we knew there had to be a better way. The moment that ChatGPT hit the scene, that's when we launched Rizz. We integrated the API technology with our product to make it possible. And we saw immediate traction. We've had over 7.5 million downloads to date, growing about 30% month over month, since launching in 2022. There's clear demand

for this type of product.

Q: Who are your biggest competitors?

A: I'd say at least 40% of our screenshots and conversations come from messaging apps like iMessage and Instagram. We get a lot of Instagram, which I would argue is the biggest dating app in the world today and Instagram recently added an AI feature that can give you different variations of how to rephrase a message, like more funny or witty suggestions.

So, for now, Instagram is a huge competitor. Tinder also has suggested openers. It's still very different than what we do we take it a step further and we give users a strategy but I think those are the biggest competitors, as well as ChatGPT. And there's many similar apps now and new ones emerging every single day.

Q: What would you say to folks who may be concerned about bringing AI into their dating life? Where do there need to be guardrails?

A: We're not trying to replace human connection. We're just trying to help people get to the date in the first place because it is hard out there. A lot of people don't even know how to start conversations online, and I think AI is helping boost that confidence.

Still, privacy and control is critical in this new world of AI. We could have built Rizz very differently. We could have made it so that Rizz would respond automatically or connect to the dating apps — but we don't do any of that. All users are in control of exactly what gets sent out to their match. And we are going to continue building with these priorities in mind. □

Apple pivots to artificial intelligence with its new iPhone 16 lineup

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**
AP Technology Writer

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP) — Apple's ubiquitous iPhone is about to break new ground with a shift into artificial intelligence that will do

everything from smartening up Siri to creating customized emojis on the fly.

The new era will dawn Monday with the unveiling of the hotly anticipated iPhone 16 in a Cuper-

tino, California, auditorium named after Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, who pulled out the first iPhone in 2007 and waved it like a magic wand while predicting it would reshape society.

Apple has sold billions of iPhones since then, helping to create about \$3 trillion in shareholder wealth. But in the past decade, there have been mostly minor upgrades from one model to the next a factor that has caused people to hold off on buying a new iPhone and led to a recent slump in sales of Apple's marquee product. The iPhone 16 is generating a bigger buzz because it is the first model to be tailored specifically for AI, a technology that is expected to trigger the

biggest revolution in the industry since Jobs thrust Apple into the smartphone market 17 years ago.

The advances included in the iPhone 16 could set up Apple to be "the gatekeeper of the consumer AI revolution," Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives wrote in a research note. Apple's pivot began three months ago with a preview of its new approach during a developers conference, helping to build anticipation for Monday's showcase. Since that June conference, competitors such as Samsung and Google have made even more strides in AI. Google even took the unusual step of introducing its latest Pixel phones packed with their own AI magic last month

instead of hewing to its traditional October timetable in an effort to upstage Apple's release of the iPhone 16. In an attempt to set itself apart from the early leaders in AI, the technology being baked into the iPhone 16 is being promoted as "Apple Intelligence." Even so, Apple Intelligence is similar to the generically named AI already available on Google's Pixel 9 and the Samsung Galaxy S24 released in January. Most of Apple's AI tasks will be performed on the iPhone itself instead of remote data centers a distinction that requires a special processor within the forthcoming models and the high-end iPhone 15s that came out a year ago. □



The iPhone 15 Pro is shown after its introduction on the Apple campus, Sept. 12, 2023, in Cupertino, Calif.

Associated Press

U.S. Open champ Jannik Sinner is a young man in a hurry. He is 23, is No. 1 and has 2 Slam titles

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — New U.S. Open champion Jannik Sinner is making big strides in a short amount of time.

And that, he figures, bodes well for what's to come.

Just 23, Sinner already reached No. 1 in the ATP rankings a few months ago and, on Sunday, collected the second Grand Slam trophy of his career and of the year by defeating Taylor Fritz 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 in the final at Flushing Meadows.

Add that to his Australian Open championship in January, and Sinner is the first man since Guillermo Vilas all the way back in 1977 to pick up major titles No. 1 and No. 2 within the same season.

"I've gone through a lot of things quickly," said Sinner, Italy's second U.S. Open singles title winner, joining 2015 women's champ Flavia Pennetta. "I'm still young. That gives me confidence I still can get better, because at 23, you haven't perfected everything. So my team and I know we have to improve." In what ways? He pointed to the match against Fritz.

"Today, I played well from the back court. I felt good there," said Sinner, who was exonerated in a doping case the week before the tournament began in New York. "But could I do more? Yes. Could I serve better?



Jannik Sinner, of Italy, kisses the championship trophy after defeating Taylor Fritz, of the United States, in the men's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, in New York.

Absolutely."

That aspect of his game is considered a relative weakness, but check out this stat: Sinner won 88% of points when his first serve went in. What the 6-foot-4 (1.93-meter) Sinner did best Sunday is what he does as well as any other man in tennis right now: control the baseline, using his instincts and considerable wingspan to get to nearly every ball and whip it with serious force. He's also an elite returner: Fritz had lost just nine of 107 service games across 22 sets before Sinner broke him three times

in the first set alone and a half-dozen times overall.

"Credit to Jannik. He returned well at some of the big moments and got some serves back that a lot of guys don't get back," said Michael Russell, Fritz's coach. "He creates a lot of unique challenges, because he's so dangerous off both sides, the forehand and the backhand, and he moves really well, too."

Fritz, the first American man in a major singles final in 15 years, had played Sinner twice before, both times at Indian Wells, California,

winning in 2021 and losing in 2023. Fritz said Sinner's greatest areas of improvement are his movement and serve.

"In my mind, I know that I'm not perfect, and I will never be perfect, but we always try to evolve," Sinner said. "Then after my career, I can say, 'OK, I've done everything possible to be at 100%.'"

When Fritz tried to go to what he called "Plan B" on Sunday, opting to keep balls in play more, rather than going for winners early in exchanges, he said, Sinner

managed to "bully me a little bit too much."

And it's not as though Sinner is only capable of these things on hard courts like those used at Melbourne Park and Flushing Meadows. He's been a semifinalist on the French Open's clay and Wimbledon's grass.

The self-belief he got at the Australian Open beating 10-time champion Novak Djokovic in the semifinals, then defeating 2021 U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev for the championship after being two sets down also was important.

He called that title "kind of a relief" because "you never know if you can win one Grand Slam or not, but when you win one, you know that you can."

The U.S. Open was different, Sinner said, both because of elevated pressure and what he termed "pre-tournament circumstances."

He considered it "pretty surprising" to wind up with a pair of majors in 2024, which is a fair assessment, especially given that 24-time Slam champion Djokovic, 37, is still around, and Carlos Alcaraz, 21, is showing himself to be elite.

This season could be seen as a transfer of power from the generation of Djokovic, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal — a trio with 66 Slam trophies — to the Big Two of Alcaraz and Sinner. □

Associated Press

Ohtani chases historic 50-50 club in home runs and stolen bases

Shohei Ohtani is the sixth player in major league history and the fastest ever to reach 40 home runs and 40 stolen bases, needing just 126 games.

He's the only player to hit the 40-40 mark in the same game. He did it in style, too, on a game-winning grand slam with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning on Aug. 23.

"He's very goal-oriented," Los Angeles Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "He likes to take down records."

On the horizon for Ohtani is potentially becoming the first member of the 50-50 club.

He slugged his 46th homer on Sunday and has 46 steals with three weeks remaining in the regular season.

The two-way Japanese superstar hasn't pitched this season his first with the Dodgers after six years with the Los Angeles Angels as he rehabilitates after surgery for an injured elbow ligament that he had a year ago.

That has allowed Ohtani to focus on his hitting.

Ohtani signed a \$700 million, 10-year deal with the Dodgers last December.

Los Angeles leads the National League West and will be headed to the postseason in October, which will be another first for Ohtani.

He didn't reach the postseason with the Angels, and they never had a winning record during his tenure in Anaheim. □



Los Angeles Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani, second from left, hits a solo home run as Cleveland Guardians starting pitcher Tanner Bibee, left, watches along with catcher Bo Naylor, right, and home plate umpire Dan Bellino during the fifth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

There were more shaky quarterback performances than superlative ones in Week 1

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Pro Football Writer

Caleb Williams, Jayden Daniels and Bo Nix played like rookies. Several established quarterbacks weren't much better.

There were more shaky performances than superlative ones on Sunday.

Baker Mayfield, Derek Carr and Josh Allen excelled while leading their teams to victories. C.J. Stroud, Tua Tagovailoa and Sam Darnold also posted decent stat lines in wins.

But Kirk Cousins was rusty in his return from a torn Achilles tendon. Deshaun Watson played like someone who was starting his 13th game in four years. Joe Burrow seemed out of



Washington Commanders quarterback Jayden Daniels (5) loses his helmet as he is hit by Tampa Bay Buccaneers linebacker Joe Tryon-Shoyinka (9) during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

quarter, he escaped a sack, scrambled, lowered his shoulder and took a hard hit.

Mayfield got up and emphatically signaled first down with a smile.

"Tried to juke out Bobby Wagner earlier. It didn't work out. I really don't have it even though I think I do," Mayfield said. "Later on, if it's a guy coming from the side, just a couple extra yards but yeah, ultimately, protect myself. Have to be smart." Daniels, the No. 2 overall pick behind Williams, had more yards rushing than passing through 2 1/2 quarters. He finished 17 of 24 for 184 yards with 88 yards rushing and two TDs on the ground.

"I'm going to do whatever it takes to try to win the football game," Daniels said about his rushing.

Williams was victorious in his debut thanks to Chicago's defense and special teams. He was just 14 of 29 for 93 yards but the Bears got scores on an interception return and blocked punt in a 24-17 win over Tennessee.

Nix showed flashes in Denver's 26-20 loss at Seattle. He ended up 26 of 42 for 138 yards and two picks. Nix ran for 35 yards and one score.

Cousins, who got \$100 million guaranteed from Atlanta, struggled against Pittsburgh's fierce defense in an 18-10 loss. He was jittery at times under pressure and threw two careless interceptions.

Meanwhile, Browns fans are still waiting for Watson to resemble the superstar he was in Houston. Micah Parsons and the rest of Dallas' defense roughed him up in a 33-17 loss at home. Watson threw two picks, got sacked six times and had a 51.1 passer rating.

"We're not the type of people that make excuses," Watson said about the lack of work with his receivers in training camp. "So some people can say that can contribute a lot, you know, my injury, guys missing time. □

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Will Levis made a crucial mistake that gave away the game. Trevor Lawrence had a poor second half. Justin Fields didn't seem comfortable. Tyler Murray started strong and faded in the second half. Daniel Jones and Bryce Young were disasters.

Overall, 17 quarterbacks have thrown for less than 200 yards with one game remaining, the most since 18 didn't reach that number in Week 1 in 2008. Considering that most starters barely play in the pre-season, sloppiness should be expected during opening weekend.

Still, there were exciting finishes, close games, three 14-point comebacks and an overtime battle.

Even success didn't equal satisfaction for some coaches.

"We want to be better than that," Buccaneers coach Todd Bowles said following a 37-20 victory over Washington. "It was great for the first game just to get out and get our feet wet, but we have some things to work on there and we've got to be better."

Mayfield threw four touchdown passes and had a 146.4 passer rating, continuing his resurgence in Tampa Bay.

Up 16 late in the fourth